Figure 3 is a top view of another personal care absorbent article of the invention, and in particular a diaper.

On page 9, lines 12-15 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

This invention relates to personal care absorbent articles such as disposable sanitary napkins (as seen in Figures 1, 2a and 2b) , diapers (as seen in Figure 3), incontinence garments, and the like. These products typically have a liquid permeable body side liner, a liquid impervious baffle, and an absorbent core between the liner and baffle. Figure 1 specifically illustrates a top view of a feminine hygiene product 10 in accordance with the invention. A cross- sectional view of this product along lines 20-20 is shown in Figure 2a, and a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of this product is shown in Figure 2b. As can be seen in Figure 1, an oblong-shaped target area 12 (shown in phantom) is situated along the top bodyside surface of the product. In Figure 3, a top view of a diaper 40 is shown with an oblong target area 42. As can be seen in Figure 2a, the feminine hygiene product 10 includes a body side liner 14, an absorbent core 16, and a liquid impervious baffle 18, with the layers positioned along the Z direction of the product.

On page 11, lines 3-14 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

Distribution layers also are included in many personal care products. Distribution layers are usually located next to the core and accept liquid from the surge or liner layer and distribute it to other areas of the core using capillary action. For instance, as can be seen in Figure 2b, a cross sectional view of a feminine hygiene product 22 is illustrated showing a liner layer 24, a distribution layer 26, a core layer 28 and a baffle layer 30. Optional transfer delay layers are also located between the distribution layer and core and act to distribute liquid in a more passive manner than distribution layers, i.e., by blocking the Z – directional pathways to the core, detouring fluids into the X – Y plane. One way in which liquid may be delayed or distributed uses a liquid

responsive film layer (e.g., PVOH film), partially wrapped with a fluid retention material (fluff/SAM). A surge material is added to the circumference of the film only in the area not wrapped with retention material. The film will resist fluid penetration until the liquid responsive film becomes soluble and so acts to distribute fluid along its length. In these manners, rather than absorbing liquid exclusively in the vicinity of the target area, more of the absorbent core is used.

On page 11, lines 15-24 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

As mentioned above, the materials of this invention may be made from synthetic polymers, natural fibers, pulps and superabsorbents or combinations thereof. Synthetic fibers include those made from polyolefins, polyamides, polyesters, rayon, acrylics, superabsorbents, LYOCELL regenerated cellulose and any other suitable synthetic fibers known to those skilled in the art. Many polyolefins are available for fiber production, for example polyethylenes such as Dow Chemical's ASPUN 6811A linear low density polyethylene, 2553 LLDPE and 25355 and 12350 high density polyethylene are such suitable polymers. The polyethylenes have melt indices, respectively, of about 26, 40, 25 and 12. Fiber forming polypropylenes include Exxon Chemical Company's ESCORENE PD 3445 polypropylene and Montell Chemical Co.'s PF304. Other polyolefins are also available.

A4

On page 12, lines 20-25, page 13, lines 1-8 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

Superabsorbents that may be useful in the present inventions can be chosen from classes based on chemical structure as well as physical form. Superabsorbents may be based on chemistries that include but are not limited to acrylic acid, iso-butylene/maleic anhydride, polyethylene oxide, carboxy-methyl cellulose, poly vinyl pyrrollidone, and poly vinyl alcohol. The superabsorbents may range in rate from slow to fast. The superabsorbents may be in the form of foams, macroporous or microporous particles, fibers, sheets or films, and may have fuzzy or

A5

fibrous coatings or morphology. An exemplary superabsorbent may be obtained from Stockhausen, Inc and is designated as FAVOR 880. Other examples of superabsorbents are in fiber form (SAF), obtained from Camelot, which are designated recognized as FIBERDRI 1241 and FIBERDRI 1161. Superabsorbents obtained from Technical Absorbents, Ltd. are designated OASIS 101 and OASIS 111. Another example included in these types of superabsorbents is obtained from Chemtall Inc. and is designated FLOSORB 60 Lady. Another example included in these types of superabsorbents is obtained from Sumitomo Seika and is recognized as SA60N Type 2.

On page 13, lines 9-18 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

Binders may also be used in structures to help provide mechanical integrity and stabilization. Binders include fiberous, liquid or other binder means which may thermally activated. Preferred fibers for inclusion are those having a relative melting point such as polyolefin fibers. Lower melting point polymers provide the ability to bond nonwoven fabric together at fiber crossover points upon the application of heat. In addition, fibers having a lower melting polymer, like conjugate and biconstituent fibers are suitable for use as binders. Exemplary binder fibers include conjugate fibers of polyolefins, polyamides and polyesters like the sheath core conjugate fibers available from KoSa Inc. (Charlotte, North Carolina) under the designation T-255 and T-256. A suitable liquid binder is KYMENE 557LX available from Hercules Inc.

On page 15, lines 15-21 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

A hydrophobic treatment may be applied to the core or distribution layer below the target area to delay fluid entry, or, conversely, a hydrophilic treatment may be applied to the absorbent core or distribution layer surface outside the target area. Suitable treatments include AHCOVEL Base N-62 surfactant, which is a blend of about 50 weight percent sorbitan mono-oleate and about 50

weight percent hydrogenated ethoxylated castor oil at 100 percent solids supplied by ICI Chemicals, GLUCOPON UP-220, an alkyl polyglycoside with a C8-10 chain at 60 percent solids, and many others known to those skilled in the art.

A7

On page 15, lines 22-25, page 16, lines 1-5 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

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One example of a material according to this invention is one in which the lower surface of the distribution material is treated with a solution of AHCOVEL surfactant in an amount from a positive amount to 0.1 weight percent. This may be applied by methods known in the art in an area outside the target area so that liquid movement in the Z – direction is enhanced. Another example of a material according to this invention is one having a concentration of superabsorbent in the target area of the absorbent core of 10 to 50 percent greater than the surrounding area. Still another example is one having a compressed area in the absorbent core, corresponding to the target area, which results in a density from 10 to 50 percent greater than the uncompressed absorbent core.

A8

In the Abstract on Page 19, Lines 3-14 should be replaced with the following paragraph:

sub B7

--A personal care absorbent article includes an absorbent core that has been treated in a manner, or is made from materials, that inhibit the transfer of liquid through the structure in and below the target area. The distribution layer above the core could likewise be treated in a manner that discourages Z-directional fluid movement. A separate transfer delay layer is avoided, thereby simplifying manufacture and reducing costs.--

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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows: